

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as specified herein in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121 by replacing the identified paragraphs as indicated below. The amended paragraphs contain no new matter. A marked up version of the amended paragraphs showing all the changes (including any matter being added thereto or deleted therefrom) is provided herewith in the section captioned, "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Specifically, please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 6, with the following re-written paragraph:

a1 —The stent structure 12 can be a balloon expandable slotted stent such as described in U.S. Patent No. 4,739,762 to Palmaz, incorporated herein by reference, as illustrated in FIGURES 1 and 2. Alternatively, the stents described in commonly-assigned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/628,096, filed concurrently herewith, can be employed. Other types of balloon expandable stents that can be used in the present invention include, for example, WITKOR stents described in U.S. Patent No. 4,969,458, STRECKER stents described in U.S. Patent No. 5,405,378, or PALMAZ-SCHATZ stents described in U.S. Patent No. 5,195,984. Alternatively, self-expanding stents, such as, for example, Nitinol stents, stents described in commonly-owned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/237,197, filed January 25, 1999, GIANTURCO stents described in U.S. Patent No. 4,580,568 or WALLSTENTS described in U.S. Patent No. 4,544,771, can be used in conjunction with the present invention. One skilled in the art will appreciate that the present invention is not limited to any particular stent design, and that any radially expandable stent can be employed in the present invention. All of the above-referenced patents and patent applications are incorporated herein by reference.—